

# SUPPLEMENT

363.50994

Sg 2

If you  
want to have  
this cheerfully  
radical little  
sent to your home  
every 2 months,  
it's simple - All  
you do  
is

**SQUATTERS' SUPPLEMENT**  
PLUS  
PLUS  
STUFF FROM PAST ISSUES  
sent \$X's or Two 36¢ stamps  
per issue



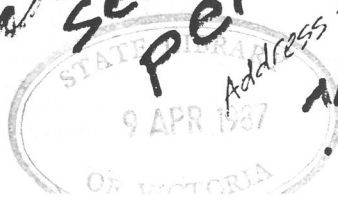
301  
ST Georges  
Road  
Nth Fitzroy  
3068 VIC.

☐ No of  
issues  
desired

NAME.....  
FIRST NAME WILL SUFFICE

ADDRESS.....

POSTCODE.....



The Squatters Union was formed in 1981 to assist people in combatting the rising tide of homelessness which, through government ineptitude, has continued to grow.

Initially it was formed, and almost completely run, by housing workers and non-squatting supporters but over the last 2 years the running of the union has almost completely passed into the hands of the squatters themselves, with the housing workers and supporters taking a more peripheral role.

The SUV, over the last five years has developed from a group aimed at providing emergency accommodation for people who found themselves on the streets, to an organisation fighting, through squatting, for the right of people to control and administer their own housing needs.



The union has passed from periods of fierce activity into times of dormancy and then back to strong activity again. Hundreds of squats have passed through it's books, some to come and go and some to come and stay.

One of the more well known ones was Bona Vista, the Telecom mansion which saw squatters unjustifiably jailed, and brought the opposition of the government well and truly into the open for the first time.

Other well known ones are the Laverton squats (25 at their peak) which lasted 4 years, only to be suddenly evicted in mid 1986 and the houses once again left to rot; empty with no intention by the owners to use them.



THEY CAME TO TAKE AWAY THE SQUATTERS

BUT I DID NOTHING BECAUSE I'VE GOT A HOME.....

At first the Squatters Union concentrated on govt. owned houses (specifically the Ministry of Housing's) but it became more and more obvious that private land-owners were just as guilty of leaving houses empty and so the last year or two has seen squatters beginning to occupy private houses, left to rot, at the same rate as govt. houses and buildings.

Since 1981 the union has been building a strong network between itself and other groups to give support to squatters in their struggle for decent affordable housing. It has supplied, and still supplies, legal aid, advice on how to squat, addresses of empty houses and buildings offers support and assistance in squatting and suggests ways of dealing with evictions or the threat thereof.

There have been many successes and many failures; some squatters getting secure tenure and others finding themselves, once again, on the streets.

The public has been made aware of the housing crisis and clearly shown that something has to be done to solve the situation.



This has been done through direct action, squatting and the production and distribution of endless propaganda on the situation.

The Squatters Union will continue to help people to organise and fight the social inequalities and the inept govt. which have created a situation where, if you have little money or do not fit societies norm (ie. the nuclear family), you are deprived of the basic right to comfortable, decent, affordable shelter.

**SQUATTERS UNION vlc**  
301 ST. GEORGES RD. VIC. 3068  
ROAD NTH. FITZROY  
VIC. 3068

[illegible]

*Passiflora*

### WORKER:

It's 7:30 a.m. I catch the no. 11 tram to work. Looking at the other commuter's faces I wonder why I can't feel any kind of solidarity or collective purposefulness. I know alienation. Emotionally naked, raw like tripe in the Brunswick Street butchers. Emetic.

Can I ever feel a part of all this. These faces of misery. Businessman, factory workers, secretaries, fleas lice vermin shittickers. Emotionally discharged. Tepid swollen bathwater.

Jesus, the trams going down Latrobe Street, not Collins. Now I'm going to have to walk. I've got a 65¢ ticket.

Can I ever belong to this.

Belsen-Bergen is as much a state of mind as a physical reality.



### WHITE TEA

The teabags don't work so good the second time around, here in Kensington there's no peace to be found. In one day, and out the next, by the course of justice, I'm left perplexed. Though in we went, hardship most grave, but we were given the same old rave. The Ministry of Housing, tries to bury its mistakes, so it can afford to indulge in retakes. The individual means nothing, to the beaurocrats of the state, less than a stale shit, is all we rate. So now we're homeless, the gutter tonight, it's for naught, we've put up a fight. The teabags don't work so good the second time around, here in Kensington there's no peace to be found.



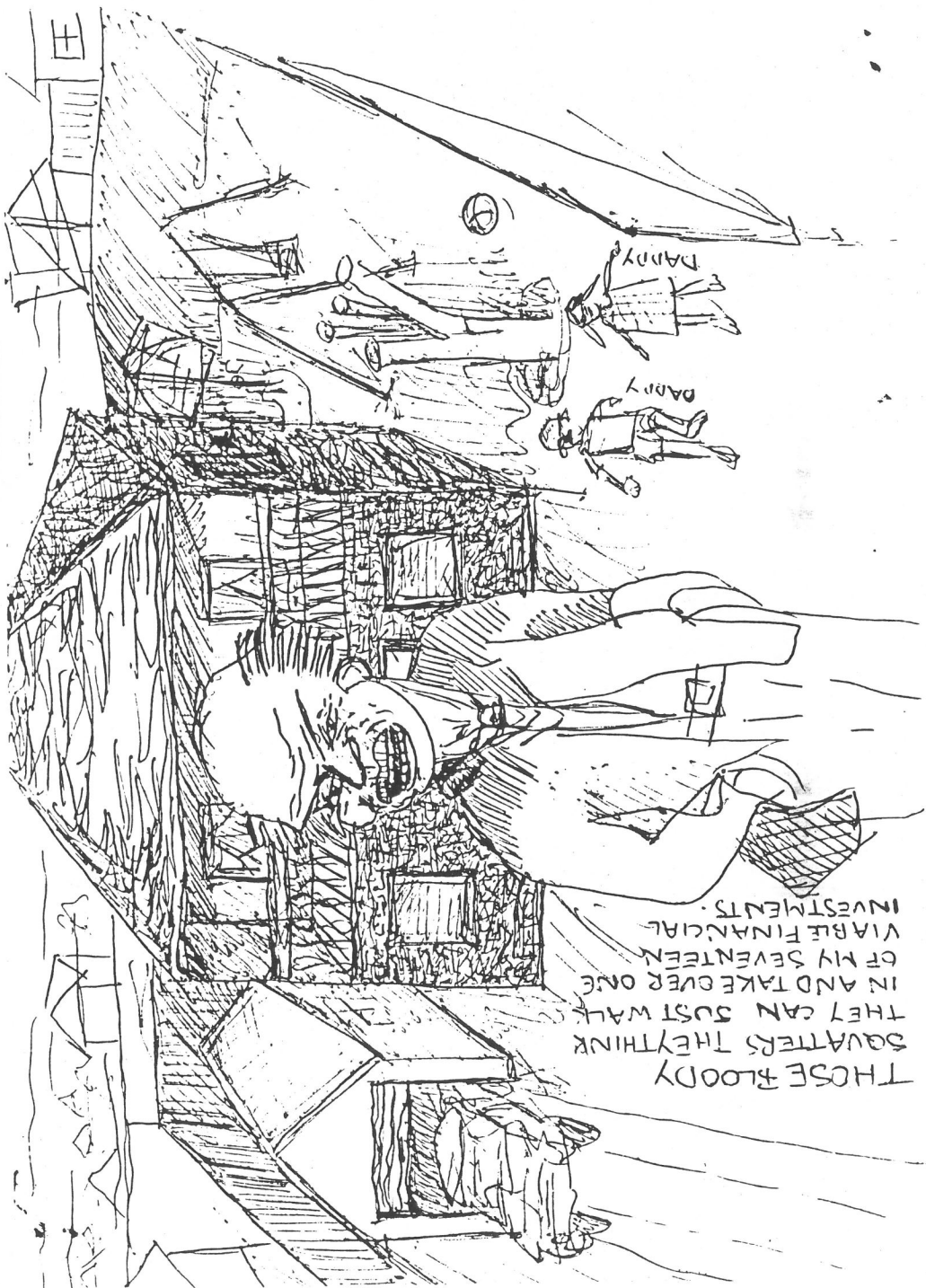
### THORNBURY

Here in Thornbury, by the light of day, I'm nursing a hangover, that won't go away. There's no water to quench my thirst, it's bad news slumming, cause the Ministry of Housing, has wrecked the plumbing. Sitting around, waiting for THEM to arrive, to argue against, the schemes THEY contrive. So let's forge a tram ticket, and go to the R.T.T., and hope this time, we get tennancy.



### MOVING

Whilst trying to overcome the inertia state, being told to sit and wait, instead of sitting and rotting, I took my rights in hand and took up squatting. What's the ministry trying to prove, when every two months I've got to move, defending a worn out system backs to the wall, makes no sense to me at all. So now and again it's back to the R.T.T., to have the same old rave given at me, I wonder when the barsteds will see, they're off their bloody tree.



THOSE BLOODY  
SAVATERS THEY THINK  
IN AND TAKE OVER ONE  
OF MY SEVENTEEN  
VIAE FINANCIAL  
INVESTMENTS.

# Lake for Sale

You know, the problem with young people today is that they've got it too easy.

I bet none of those bloody dirty squatters have ever done a days honest work. And all they do is take other peoples houses and honest taxpayers money. I have been a good church going, hard working, tax paying, racist jerk for nearly sixty years now. When I was young, I worked twenty seven hours a day, got two shillings a month, and counted my blessings. Me, my mother, my father and my seventeen brothers and sisters used to live in a shoebox on the bottom of a lake, and every morning we had to lick the lake clean, but did you ever hear a word of complaint? No siree, we knew our place, and we accepted it. Now the young layabouts want everything handed to them on a plate. What they need is a good dose of the army, my word, that would straighten them out. Get rid of a few of those bloody geeks, too....

Age of No  
Imagination

BLAH BLAH

BLAH BLAH  
BLAH...

BLAH

And now, a word from the  
Moron majority...

# It's a crime to be poor

One myth that the unemployed are confronted with, is that the dole is too high. Being unemployed, in other words knowing what I get each fortnight, and acknowledging what THEY classify as OUR needs. I can say beyond doubt that the wage we get doesn't even satisfy our basic needs. One of the hardships that face unemployed is homelessness.

The private rental market is quite inaccessible for all unemployed. If by luck you can get a house through

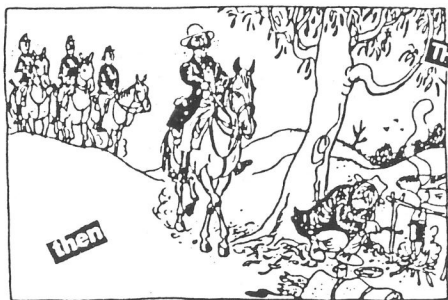
the private market, half or more of your meager wage goes into rent. Then you're forced to face other hardships as starvation, living without electricity etc. On the other hand there is public housing that being accessible to dolees, but, and there is a but, you'll probably have to wait 3 to 10 years before they find you a suitable accommodation. In the mean time you can go live where ever, it is not their problem.

## when the rich own the law

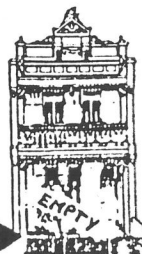
If you start taking what you need you'll probably be an outlaw and that is what happens when you squat. Squatting at this time in this society, is illegal. But the laws in this present system protect more property than they do people. The law about squatting was changed about a decade ago, when poor people started squatting. Remember how our so called great country was started but by squatting. The difference between then and now, is that in that time; squatters took MORE land than they needed. And they most of the time got rid of the people who use to live on the land. This was blessed by the church and protected by the law. Today we only squat because

we are forced in doing so, and we only take what we need. We also never move in an occupied house, we always squat unutilized buildings, that the landlord private or public has forgotten or is using to speculate. And we are considered as criminals.

Squatting is not a longtime solution to homelessness. Homelessness will always exist in a society where people instead of the community owns the land. Squatting is only an immediate solution. So if you've got nowhere to sleep tonight and you believe that housing is a right and not a privilege. Don't wait any longer SQUAT.



There are still a lot of homeless people. So if you notice or happen to know of any empty houses, please let the squatters union ( 4190047 ) know.



# SQUAT



# 1985: What a brilliant year!

## HOUSES TO SQUAT HTS

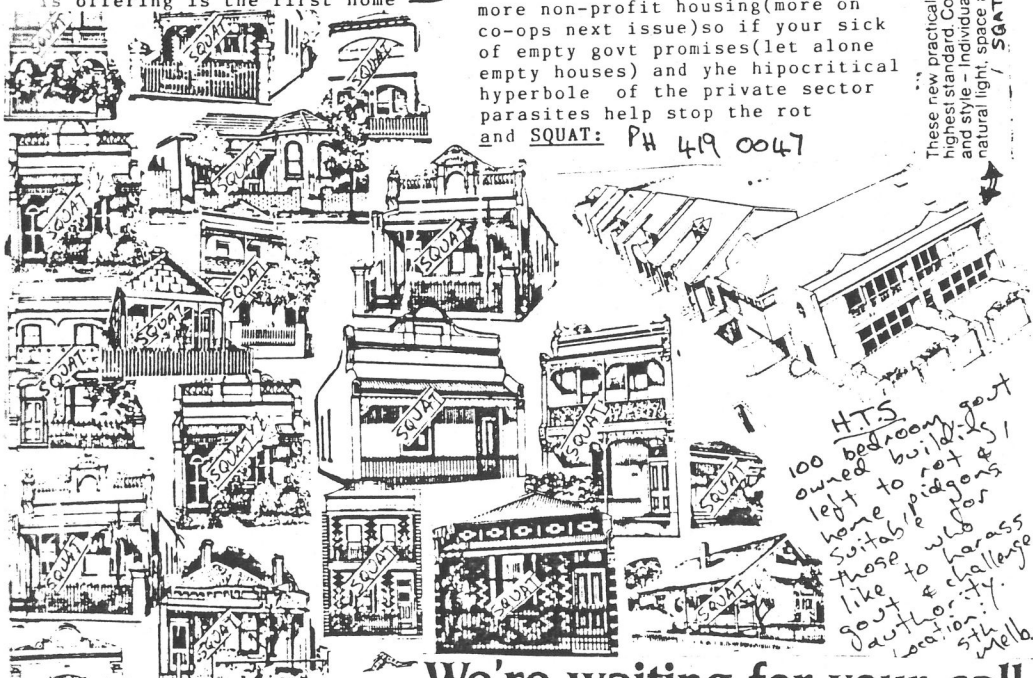
The myth of the Australian dream "owning your own home" is constantly perpetrated and perceived as the most viable and attractive form of housing available and yet all it does is condemn most people into life-long debt thus denying them of adequate amounts of other basic needs like food and clothing and proving yet another avenue for the rich to increase their profits by buying and selling land, keeping prices artificially high (including rents) to increase their revenue at the expense of peoples needs. Successive Australian governments have pursued a full home ownership policy directing massive subsidies towards home buyers to enforce this myth. To strengthen their argument they built monolithic monstrosities to put people off public housing ie to encourage private ownership and ignore all other housing strategies. Centralising those most in need also enforces hierarchies and entrenched bureaucracies with little flexibility and no imagination. A token gesture the present govt is offering is the "first home

Kew: 22 bedrooms, 10 Kitchens, 5 Bathrooms, Soon to be developed for profit purposes. Must be occupied soon en masse. Suit politically active position with aims of abolishing personal greed orientated profit.

owners scheme "FHOS, but the average income of applicants under FHOS is 80-85% of average weekly earnings AWE. Those on pensions and benefits receive less than 25% of AWE thus making the scheme irrelevant to those in greatest housing poverty. To underline further govt insensitivity the current federal minister for housing has uncommitted the Labour govt from its election promise to double public housing stock in 10 years and predicted it would probably take 20 years at current funding. And so now we have a situation where those in greatest housing need are put on waiting list up to 7 years long, are unable to enter the private market because of the parasites that control it and make massive profits from it. To me the most viable alternatives are squatting and rental co-ops which directly or indirectly push for more non-profit housing (more on co-ops next issue) so if your sick of empty govt promises (let alone empty houses) and the hypocritical hyperbole of the private sector parasites help stop the rot and SQUAT: PH 419 0047

These new practical and functional empty houses are meticulously finished to the highest standard. Comfort in uncompromised luxury has balanced lines of elegance and style - Individual designs of 2 and 3 bedrooms with open plan living - ample natural light, space and privacy. All colour coordinated with lock-up garage.

SCATTERS UNION MON - CAT 10-5 PH 419 0047



And 1986?

We're waiting for your call.



L.Y.S.H.  
minim

1987 is international Year  
of Shelter (for the Homeless)

Evidently a year will not be  
enough to find shelter and  
food for the millions (perhaps  
billions) who have neither!

Can Governments all over the  
world look at long term

prospects and  
not at their  
arse yet?

Can you and I  
resist this  
Grand Scam  
were all a  
part of?

In the local laundromat

(squatters wear clothes!)

The Radio's on 3CK (M.P.  
STYLE)

There's a program on El Salvador

A man empties clothes from  
the tumble drier.

Right from the start

Good Ol' U.S.A. has played

deadly wargames to this

day

But "dirty stains wash

away," so "use some

new "blue trix" powder play

Arresting students off

the street

New Commodores look

rather neat

Fill the meter full of nickel

Use a coin op drier for a hot

air trickle

Military coups are kind of

fickle.

Spare change runs out just like

minerals

Phone up now, support the cause

hot clean linen goes outdoors!

Remember don't forget today

Ships by the dock, radiate dissarray

Glad bags, save 'em, use 'em twice

Ear to the floor and the price of rice

Send it over, help food aid.

Sailors in the laundry drink lemonade

Send your money Australia post

Trust rebel radio gets the most

Buy a t-shirt or cassette

Take a gun, catch a jet

Live a year with rebel forces

or kill time in Laundries

writing versus.



THE FIRST OF  
ANOTHER NATURAL



SPECIES: BUSINESS  
PERSON

ORDER: OFFICE  
HEAD CLERK

DIET: CARNIVOROUS

WELFARE  
RECIPIENT

SQUATTER

HERBIVOROUS

Barney Freeman

Stop  
pay  
ing!  
Squat  
!!!!!!!  
Now or  
Never!  
ONLY  
One Year  
SQUEEZE

# SQUATTING:

## What's Happening? A Social Romance

One used to assume it was a position one assumed when toilets were few and voyeurs even fewer. However, I discovered squatting made reference to more than poor potty training and sheep growers.

Half way through last year, I found myself without accommodation and having no money when my home was overtaken. The all-too-friendly RE agent refused to fumigate, seized the bond, changed the locks and caught a train to Mentone on the proceeds. All of which was illegal but...overthrows don't only happen in the Kremlin.

After seeking temporary refuge with a friend I successfully hunted down a squatter I once spoke to. Squatting sounded romantic enough; even an adventure. Now it was a matter of necessity, financial and otherwise.

And so I moved into my first squat and the romantic ideal set as soon as the sun did.

Hard living, loved ones.

Why shouldn't I live in a place that had been empty for two years when I had no other reasonable choice? God knows, after paying advance rent, bond money, compulsory union fees and scrounging text books, there wasn't much left for the sampling of Lygon Street nouveau cuisine. If you're there God, I hope that you're listening.

And so my social conscience awoke, metaphysical guilt gripped the very core of my dialectic mind. I discovered Marxism came in as many varieties as Heinz baby foods and also the nutritional content of a two week old 'Big Mac'. I learnt how to relaunders tram tickets and to catch the lift down from Level 4 at 9.15 in order to go up.

But I learnt many other things too. Hidden hypocrisies and intrinsic confusion was not only a mental state of my own. The governments scope and ability in this realm of inaptitude belittled my efforts into self-indulgent grandiosement by comparison.

Governments prefer to demolish and vandalise houses rather than to let people live in them. At the moment the RCA is destroying houses they own in Glen Iris rather than leave them empty. Telecom and the Ministry of Housing (MOH), having a particularly proud ascetic expertise in toilet vandalism and floor removal. Meanwhile, in excess of 125,000 people rot on MOH waiting lists as government departments let empty houses that they own rot.

The Victorian Squatters Union is there to highlight this wasteful hypocrisy, to utilize these empty homes and to fight for affordable decent housing. It is staffed by volunteer help (moi par-exemple) and subsists solely on public donations (215 Victoria Parade, Collingwood, ph: 419 0047). We'll accept nearly anything; we do not accept Bankcard, Mastercard, American Express et cetera however. So sorry.

Squatting is a valid and justified means of overcoming the affordable housing shortage and wastage. The VSU provides as many services as possible and has a manual "Opening Doors" assessing the viability of squatting and how to go about it. It is available at the office of the VSU.

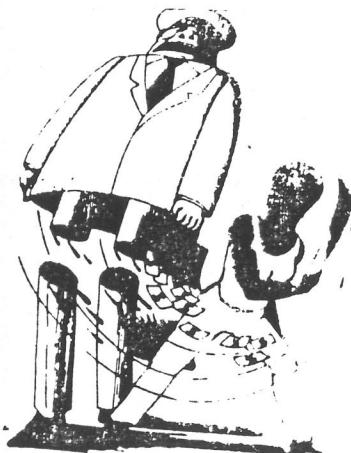
You can help by notifying the VSU of any empty homes left vacant longer than three months, telephone 419 0047.

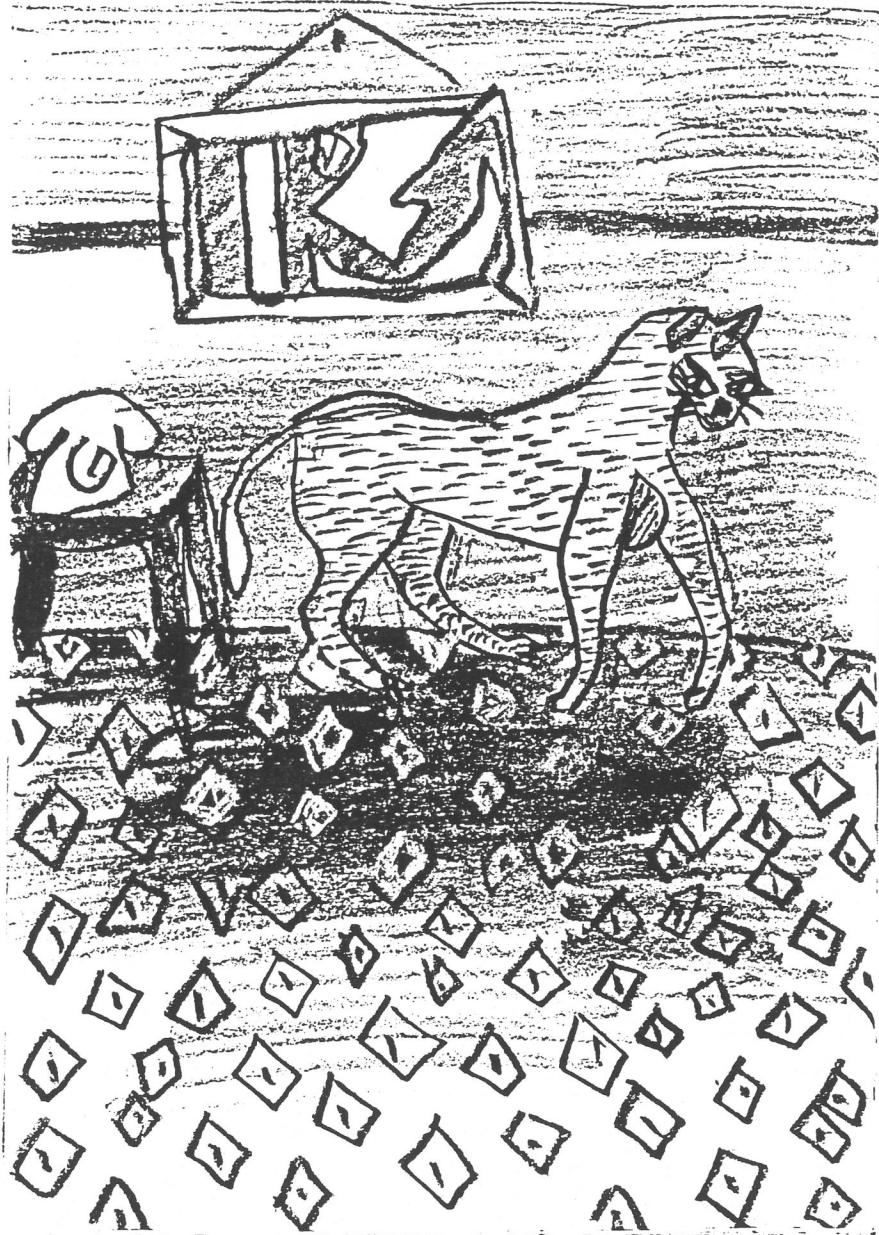
Remember: SQUAT, DON'T LET IT ROT.

Sean McLaughlin.



It's past midnight,  
I'm awake again,  
Wondering when they'll come  
Those ministry men.  
Been here a while,  
A bit of a break,  
As my belongings are packed,  
My laughter is fake.  
I take a last look 'round,  
And shoulder my kit,  
Wondering how long,  
I'll take this shit.  
Dreaming of bombing,  
And buying a gun,  
Visiting the ministry,  
Just to have fun.  
We're getting more militant  
Day by day,  
And one day those bastards  
Will just have to pay.  
Dreaming of anarchy,  
And how the world will be,  
When I got rid  
Of those that rule me.  
How can I be peaceful,  
When the cops have guns?  
Not any more  
Will I be the one who runs.  
So watch out,  
You bourgeoisie,  
We're coming to get you,  
And at the front'll be me!





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**SQUATTERS' SUPPLEMENT**

**25c** Nos 1-4 **STUFF FROM PAST ISSUES**

**364 Stamps**

sent \$X's or Two to

Address the "Sub" to Squatters Union of Victoria

**NAME**.....  
FIRST NAME WILL SUFFICE

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☐ No of issues desired

301 ST Georges Road Nth Fitzroy 3068 VIC.

